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PROGRAM Special -- Electronic Blackjack STATION WTTG-TV

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BAXTER SCHOOL RUN BY FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE

The commentator described the various devices used in lie detecting, and described the increasing use of such devices for interviewing and investigating prospective employees. Film clips were shown of a woman being interviewed, with detector, and then an analysis of the results of the test. The following was heard, in part:

COMMENTATOR: "In the view of one Congressman, todays polygraph operator is taking on the awesome role of judge, jury, and investigator of his fellow man. Yet in many cases, it was found that the investigator, whose work may affect the destiny of hundreds of men and women, had not even obtained a high school diploma before being sent out into the mainstream of American life.

"New York City, which boasts of being the hub of American fashion and entertainment, is also the center on the East Coast for training polygraph operators. Here in this mid-town building, is the Baxter School of Lie Detection. It is run by a former Central Intelligence Agency employee, Cleve Baxter, who claims to be a consultant to most every government agency that uses the polygraph today.

"Standards of admission are relatively simple. The student sponsored by an investigation agency, needs only a high school diploma. All others must have two years of college credits. The student is given an intensive six-week course that covers everything from the fundamentals of a lie detector test, to the maintenance and repair of the polygraph machine. The question remains, however, how qualified is the average polygraph operator, to interpret the physiological and psychological responses recorded on a chart. Mr. Baxter, a leader in his field, cast serious doubt on many of today's examiners.

MR. BAXTER WAS SEEN IN FILM CLIP, AS HE SPOKE.

BAXTER: "Up until now, we have had no regulations that would prevent a person from hanging out his shingle, and stating that they are a polygraph expert, and going to work the next day, if they had procured the equipment. The exception recently, in the last two or three years have been three states that have licensing

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laws that would restrict this type of performance. Without a state licensing and regulatory setup, there is no way that I know of at all, to accurately determine the competency of the individuals that are conducting polygraph examinations. I would certainly feel that there are significant number of examiners that are active within the commercial polygraph field of endeavor that should not be doing this work at all.

"In fact I would add that the type of work that the major portion of their livelihood is derived from should be a type of screening that is banned completely, as far as polygraph is concerned. And this we want very much to do, by the state licensing laws and regulatory measures, where it will absolutely ban screening that is without point, where there is a probing type screening that is based on the idea of keeping the honest man honest. This theoretically sounds good and the actual effect is nonsense. There should not be period employee screening. There should not be screening that involves a scraping of the bottom of the barrel, just to see where every nickel and dime went that the employer feels that he has lost. If he does not have a concrete issue at stake, and he does not have a good reason for selecting individuals and asking if they would volunteer for the test, they should not, by any means, volunteer for a test. . ."